minence, men endeavour to ſink us ſtill lower, merely to render us alluring objects for a moment; and women, intoxicated by the adoration which men, under the influence of their ſenſes, pay them, do not ſeek to obtain a durable intereſt in their hearts, or to become the friends of the fellow creatures who find amuſement in their ſociety.

I am aware of an obvious inference:—from every quarter have I heard exclamations againſt maſculine women; but where are they to be found? If by this appellation men mean to inveigh againſt their ardour in hunting, ſhooting, and gaming, I ſhall moſt cordially join in the cry; but if it be againſt the imitation of manly virtues, or, more properly ſpeaking, the attainment of thoſe talents and virtues, the exerciſe of which ennobles the human character, and which raiſe females in the ſcale of animal being, when they are comprehenſively termed mankind;—all thoſe who view them with a philoſophical eye muſt, I ſhould think, wiſh with me, that they may every day grow more and more maſculine.

This diſcuſſion naturally divides the ſubject. I ſhall firſt conſider women in the grand



grand light of human creatures, who, in common with men, are placed on this earth to unfold their faculties; and afterwards I ſhall more particularly point out their peculiar deſignation.

I wiſh alſo to ſteer clear of an error which many reſpectable writers have fallen into; for the inſtruction which has hither been addreſſed to women, has rather been applicable to *ladies*, if the little indirect advice, that is ſcattered through Sandford and Merton, be excepted; but, addreſſing my ſex in a firmer tone, I pay particular attention to thoſe in the middle claſs, becauſe they appear to be in the moſt natural ſtate. Perhaps the ſeeds of falſe-refinement, immorality, and vanity, have ever been ſhed by the great. Weak, artificial beings, raiſed above the common wants and affections of their race, in a premature unnatural manner, undermine the very foundation of virtue, and ſpread corruption through the whole maſs of ſociety! As a claſs of mankind they have the ſtrongeſt claim to pity; the education of the rich tends to render them vain and helpleſs, and the unfolding mind is not ſtrengthened by the